GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2654
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2000
TELEMEDICINE
THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether telemedicine has been successfully tested in the country;

(b) if so, the names of the institutions who have tested it;

(c) whether the treatment of patient is possible from this system;

(d) if so, the time by which the said system is likely to be introduced;

(e) whether the telemedicine experiment has been based on any foreign formula; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (f) As per information available, there are 3 institutions which are in the process of testing the utilization of telemedicine in patient care viz., (I) Shri Ramachandra Medical College in Chennai which is linked to the Toronto Hospital for Sick Children, Ontario, Canada; (ii) Thirvallur village in Tamil Nadu connected to Chennai Medical College located in 40 kms away in Chennai; and (iii) Soumya Apollo Hospital, Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh for remote diagnosis with partial financial assistance from Technical Development Board, Government of India.The Ministry of Information Technology, Government of India, has also established a Telemedicine Technology Development Programme for working out appropriate technology for meeting the requirements of health care needs of the country. Further, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare recently constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. N.K. Ganguly, DG, ICMR to formulate policies and strategies for application of information technology for educational purposes in medical and dental colleges and other related teaching institutions which would, inter alia, also impact on patient care.